

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 07074 131616Z

43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 NIC-01 AF-10 DRC-01 IO-14 /127 W

----- 001405

R 131450Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8715

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD VIA POUCH

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 7074

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, PO

SUBJENZ: SOVIET REACTION TO PORTUGUESE EVENTS

1. SUMMARY. SOVIET MEDIA REACTION TO PORTUGUESE COUP HAS BEEN CAUTIOUSLY FAVORABLE. PRESS HAS WELCOMED "END TO FASCISM" AND REAPPEARANCE IN PORTUGAL OF COMMUNIST AND SOCIALIST PARTIES. THERE HAS BEEN LESS ENTHUSIASM ABOUT SPINOLA'S APPROACH TO THE AFRICAN TERRITORIES. SOME CONCERN HAS BEEN EXPRESSED OVER POSSIBLE COUNTER-REVOLUTION, AND PRAVDA HAS SUGGESTED THAT NATO "MILITARISTS" ARE ALARMED AT EVENTS IN LISBON. SOVIET REPORTAGE HAS PROVIDED FEW CLUES AS TO MOSCOW'S ATTITUDE ON DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE NEW REGIME. SOVIETS SEEM AT THE MOMENT TO BE WAITING FOR A FIRMER FIX ON ITS AFRICAN POLICY,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 07074 131616Z

ON ITS STABILITY, AND ON ITS RELATIONS WITH THE DOMESTIC LEFT.

END SUMMARY.

2. SOVIET PRESS HAS TAKEN POSITIVE VIEW OF LIBERALIZATION OF PORTUGUESE POLITICAL SYSTEM. IZVESTIYA FEATURE ON PORTUGAL BY INFLUENTIAL COMMENTATOR BOVIN (MAY 7), AND PRAVDA COMMENTATOR YURIY ZHUKOV ON TV INTERNATIONAL PRAVDA WEEKLY INTERNATIONAL REVIEW (MAY 5) AFFAIRS REVIEW (MAY 11) HAVE WELCOMED SPINOLA GOVERNMENT'S DOMESTIC PROGRAM. IZVESTIYA CATEGORIZED NEW GOVERNMENT'S OBJECTIVE AS "RADICAL REFORMS" AIMED AT TRANSFORMATION OF PORTUGAL INTO "BOURGEOIS DEMOCRACY" AFTER FORTY YEARS OF FASCIST RULE. PRESS HAS

PREDICTABLY ACCLAIMED RETURN OF COMMUNIST AND SOCIALIST PARTY LEADERS AS PROMISING STEP AND HAS NOTED COMMUNIST SUPPORT FOR REFORMS.

3. ON SENSITIVE SUBJECT OF AFRICAN POSSESSIONS, SOVIET MEDIA HAVE BEEN MORE CAUTIOUS. CAREFULLY PROTECTING SUB-SAHARAN FLAND, BOVIN ASSERTED THAT ONLY BASIS FOR RESOLUTION OF AFRICAN PROBLEM IS FULL INDEPENDENCE AND SAID THAT LISBON HAS NOT YET INDICATED DECISION TO GRANT IT TO AFRICAN TERRITORIES. BOVIN DID CONCEDE, HOWEVER, THAT AFRICAN RESISTANCE LEADERS ARE NONETHELESS PREPARED TO TALK TO LISBON

PRAVDA REVIEW IN STRONGER TERMS SAID PORTUGUESE EMPIRE'S TIME HAS ENDED AND AFRICAN "PATRIOTS" HAVE DECLARED THEY WILL CONTINUE THE STRUGGLE UNTIL FULL LIBERATION.

4. BOTH BOVIN AND PRAVDA REVIEW WERE CAUTIOUS ABOUT PREDICTING OUTCOME OF PORTUGAL'S NEW COURSE. BOVIN WARNED THAT THE "ROOTS OF FASCISM HAVE NOT BEEN DESTROYED" AND THAT THERE ARE FORCES WHO WOULD "REPLACE FASCIST DICTATORSHIP WITH A MILITARY ONE." PRAVDA REVIEW FOCUSED ON DANGER OF COUNTER-REVOLUTION AGAINST FORCES WHO ARE DETERMINED TO END COLONIAL WARS AND ESTABLISH A DEMOCRATIC REGIME. RECALLING PORTUGUESE ASSISTANCE TO U.S. DURING OCTOBER ME WAR, REVIEWER SUGGESTED THAT NATO "MILITARISTS" MAY BE SOURCE OF DANGER AND SAID NATO NATURALLY IS USING LEVERAGE TO PRESSURE LISBON.

5. SOVIET REPORTING GIVES NO INDICATION WHETHER MOSCOW AT THIS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 07074 131616Z

POINT HAS MADE ANY DECISION ON ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH NEW GOVERNMENT OR ON POSSIBLE MOVES IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD. INDEED, PRESS TREATMENT REFLECTS LACK OF CLEAR GUIDANCE. FOR EVERY POSITIVE FACTOR THERE IS A NEGATIVE ONE: THE REGIME IS MOVING TOWARD BOURGEOIS DEMOCRACY BUT IS NOT THERE YET; IT HAS READMITTED LEFTISTS BUT ELEMENTS OF FASCISM REMAIN; IT IS PREPARED TO TALK TO AFRICAN REVOLUTIONARIES BUT HAS NOT PROMISED INDEPENDENCE.

STOESSEL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, PARAMILITARY FORCES, POLITICAL LEADERS, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MOSCOW07074
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740117-0014
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740553/aaaabuxi.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 MAY 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <13 JUN 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NZ: SOVIET REACTION TO PORTUGUESE EVENTS
TAGS: PFOR, UR, PO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005